

29 July 1953

POLITICAL PROSPECTS IN CASE OF QUIRINO'S DEATH

As president, Lopez will be in a strong bargaining position. He might rejoin the Liberals and attempt to maneuver himself to the head of their ticket or he might continue his present candidacy as Romulo's running mate, depending on his executive powers to provide the organized support which the new Democratic party has heretofore lacked.

Romulo's future will be more or less dependent on Lopez. He is in a weak bargaining position with little to offer any party except prestige. Although this is undoubtedly translatable into a certain number of votes, the total would scarcely compare with that commanded by Magsaysay's popularity, or that deliverable by party machines.

The Liberals will probably call a new convention although House Speaker Perez has said that the Liberal executive committee can designate a new slate. The Liberal leaders may find it advisable to deal with Lopez. Lacking command of the executive, their chances of electing Yulo (Quirino's running-mate) or some other candidate are greatly lessened.

The virtually inevitable struggle for power between Lopez and Romulo and the Quirino men (with one faction almost certain to be eliminated as effective contenders) should leave Magsaysay and the Nacionalista in an improved position.

~~SECRET~~